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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
1-5
URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1967

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1967

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1967. Dr. McGregor retired at the end of March 1968, too early to compile and present this report to you.

The vital statistics for the year were satisfactory. The number of births increased from 387 to 438, giving a standard birth-rate of 17.26 per 1,000 of the population compared with 15.27 in 1966, and equal to the national figure. The still-birth rate and death rate were lower than for the previous year, but the infantile mortality rate increased from 12.92 to 15.9. This was due to a rise in the number of deaths of infants under one year, from 5 to 7; three of these deaths occurred in infants under four weeks of age.

Only one new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year, and one male in the 65-75 age group, died from the disease, giving a death-rate of 0.038 comparable with the national figure of 0.037.

The deaths from malignant neoplasms rose by 3 to 57 in 1967, giving a death-rate in Ashington of 2.16 per 1,000 of the population compared with the national figure of 2.275. Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus increased from 13 to 19, giving a death rate of 0.72 compared with a national figure of 0.584; 16 males and 3 females died from this cause.

As in previous years, the main cause of death was due to diseases of the heart and circulation, 40.8% of the total deaths being due to the latter.

There was a sharp rise in the number of cases of measles notified in 1967, and of the 441 cases, 311 occurred in children between the ages of 3 and 9. By the beginning of April, 413 cases had been notified and the peak of the epidemic had been reached.

The summer months brought an epidemic of dysentery to Ashington. The first two cases occurred in pre-school children in the same family, but the source of infection, as is so often the case with this disease, could not be discovered. Cases then began to occur in younger school children in the south east section of the town. The schools involved were visited, letters were given to the children to warn parents of the outbreak and to give advice when symptoms occurred in the household, and advice was also given to the headteachers, caretakers and canteen staff. Each infected family was visited and given a leaflet of advice. Food handlers were kept away from work until they were free from infection. School toilets were inspected regularly, and although in many cases the buildings were old and the amenities were not as good as could have been hoped for, the toilets were found to be kept clean and disinfected. As the epidemic spread to all areas of the town, it was quite obvious, in many instances, that spread had occurred by direct contact between families owing to the fact that, in spite of all the advice and instruction given about the method of spread, parents did not keep infected children away from other children and did not carry out the simple precautions of care with personal hygiene. Until these precautions are taken, we shall always be in potential danger of a further outbreak of dysentery in the town, and the onus must lie on the people of Ashington to prevent this occurrence.

Two cases of food-poisoning were notified during the year and both were due to a salmonella type of organism. One case contracted the infection while on holiday abroad, but it was impossible to discover the source of infection in the second case.

Early in 1967 a Home Safety Committee was formed once again in Ashington, after a lapse of two years. The Committee continued to function during the year, and one of its efforts took place in the autumn when unwanted drugs and medicines were collected and were handed to the Chief Pharmacist at Ashington Hospital for destruction. It is hoped that the Council will continue to support the efforts of this Committee in its work of the prevention of accidents in the home.

The Ashington Old People's Welfare Committee and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service continued their good work for the old people of the town during the year. Twenty-four meals each day, for four days in the week were delivered to elderly, house-bound people by the W.R.V.S. Delivery drivers were mainly retired men and one W.R.V.S. organiser, but there was a shortage of 'drivers' mates' for the service. This worthy work would only involve duty on one day per month and surely there must be people in Ashington who would give this small amount of time to help this cause. The W.R.V.S. also provided meals on two days each week at a charge of 1/6d per meal, at the Luncheon Club, in a building which was maintained by the Council, and the scheme was aided financially by a grant of £20 from Northumberland County Council.

The chiropody service sponsored by the Old People's Welfare Committee and organised by the W.R.V.S. continued to be used and appreciated, logs were delivered to the old people at Christmas and other help was given where it was required. Several fund-raising efforts by members of the Old People's Welfare Committee took place during the year.

This work has an important place in reducing the loneliness of old age. The old people look forward to being visited for whatever reason, and the visits make them feel that they are not forgotten.


Finally I must record that the loyal support of the Public Health Inspectors, the work of the Health Department Clerk and the interest and support of members of the Council were greatly appreciated during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	C.B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Meat)) Inspector) S. MUSK, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector (Meat)	J.S. GRAHAM, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector (Meat)	S. GREEN, M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. C. Sampson (resigned July 1967) Miss M. Gibson (commenced Aug. ")
Telephone	Ashington 2287/3442
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Station Villa, Ashington
Clerk to the P.H. Inspector	Miss D. Oliver
Telephone	Ashington 2263/4

Area in Acres	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1967	26,320
Rateable Value	£801,372
One Penny Rate Produces	£2,980
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1967)	9,066
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	2,506



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VITAL STATISTICS.

(The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales)

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	419	223	196
Illegitimate	19	8	11
	<u>438</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>207</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.6
 (Comparability Factor 1.04) Standard Birth Rate 17.26 (17.2)

Still Births.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	1	6

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 15.7 (14.7)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
294	179	115

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 11.2
 (Comparability Factor 1.17) Standard Death Rate 13.1 (11.2)
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. Nil (0.20)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	7	5	2

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births 15.9 (18.3)
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 16.7
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) 6.8 (12.5)
 Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) 6.8
 Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) 22.4

1957.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

		Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F	8 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -	1 1	4 1	- 2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M F	16 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	4 1	6 -	2 1	2 1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F	- 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M F	7 12	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	1 1	1 1	1 2	3 5	1 2
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M F	3 1	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
16	Diabetes	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M F	29 16	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 2	2 3	9 3	16 8
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	M F	58 30	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	6 1	9 4	25 9	17 15
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	M F	2 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1 2
20	Other Heart Disease	M F	10 9	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	4 1	3 1	2 7
21	Other Circulatory Disease	M F	4 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	1 1	2 2
23	Pneumonia	M F	3 2	- 1	2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1
24	Bronchitis	M F	12 6	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	3 -	7 2	1 4

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS (contd.)

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	AGE IN YEARS	45-	55-	65-	75 & over
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 1
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M F	2 1	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
31 Congenital Malformations	M F	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
32 Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M F	11 14	2 -	1 -	1 -	- -	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 2	2 3	4 5
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M F	3 2	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	2 -	- -	- -	- -	- 1
34 All Other Accidents	M F	3 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	2 1
35 Suicide	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	M F	179 115	2 1	3 1	3 1	- 1	1 3	2 2	8 2	17 7	62 30	50 52

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

CAUSES	Total Number		% of Total Deaths	
	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	114	120	37.62	40.8
Malignant Neoplasms	54	57	17.82	19.4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	36	45	11.88	15.3
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	45	24	14.85	8.16
TOTAL	249	246	82.17	83.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 wks.	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 -11 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Vesico-intestinal Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	-	7

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past ten years.

	'58	'59	'60	'61	'62	'63	'64	'65	'66	'67
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	11	12	15	9	8	7	14	9	5	7
Infantile Mortality Rate	24.83	26.32	30.93	20.98	17.69	15.42	32.04	21.89	12.92	15.9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	267	873
" " " "	Urine " " "	-	15
General Practitioner	Faeces " " "	150	4

185 Sensitivity tests were carried out

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and clinics, covering a wide field, are held in the Centre at South View.

For the younger children there are infant welfare, toddler and immunisation sessions. Two toddler classes are held in the afternoon, each week, with an associated Tufty Club to teach road safety.

There is a session held each week to teach relaxation and mothercraft to expectant mothers, and three Mothers' Clubs are held each fortnight. Speech Therapy and Ophthalmic Clinics are held weekly and sessions for dental treatment are held daily. A handicraft class for the physically handicapped is held every Monday.

Two chiropodists attend the clinic each week and give treatment to retired men, women over the age of 60 years, antenatal mothers and to handicapped patients.

The clinic is also used for Family Planning sessions, and every Thursday afternoon the Ashington Old People's Welfare Committee covers an "Advice Bureau" manned by members on a rota system. About 120 enquiries from elderly citizens were dealt with during 1967.

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station in West View, where 16 drivers are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years & over	TOTAL
Measles	23	103	136	175	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	441
Whooping Cough	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Dysentery	10	29	29	83	12	7	31	15	5	3	1	-	225
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Total	33	134	165	263	17	8	34	16	5	5	3	-	683

IMMUNISATION.

This was carried out in the child welfare clinics and for the first time in large numbers, by the general practitioners.

The record of immunisations completed is not, now, available for Ashington, alone, but refers to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

In the Central Area in 1967, 912 children completed a primary course of triple antigen, while a further 89 completed a course of diphtheria/tetanus injections.

In addition, 199 older children, not protected in infancy against tetanus, received a primary course of treatment with tetanus vaccine alone.

Re-inforcing injections against diphtheria were given to 2,388 children, against whooping cough to 863 children and against tetanus to 2,217 children.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

It is indeed satisfactory to be able to report that no case of poliomyelitis has occurred in Ashington for a decade.

The immunisation campaign must continue to be actively pursued, to prevent the resurgence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis and the occurrence of dreaded tetanus

TUBERCULOSIS

CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1967.

	New Cases					Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp		Tot	Resp		Non-Resp	Tot
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -64 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 -74 years	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1

Only 1 new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified in 1967 and 1 death occurred.

The death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was 0.038 per 1,000

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.037 per 1,000

The death-rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in Ashington was Nil.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.005 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below.

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death rate in Ashington 0.72 per 1,000
 Death rate in England and Wales 0.584 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 1.44 per 1,000
 Death rate in England and Wales 1.691 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Ashington 2.16 per 1,000
 Death rate in England and Wales 2.275 per 1,000

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ended 31st December 1967.

	No. of inspections during year.	No. of defects or contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	Defects remedied under Improvement Grant Procedure.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory action.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>Housing.</u>								
Structural Defects.	882 }	465	186	18	278	1	1	-
Defective food store.		4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Dampness.		140	63	8	76	-	-	-
Overcrowding.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
<u>Water Supply.</u>								
Insufficient.	130 }	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.		8	8	6	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
<u>Drainage.</u>								
Insufficient.	124 }	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.		8	8	8	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>								
Insufficient.	26 }	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.		13	10	13	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
<u>General.</u>								
Food Premises.	662	108	108	103	-	-	-	-
Dairies.	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses.	668	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	53	9	-	9	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals.	9	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	28	7	-	7	-	1	-	-
Smoke Nuisances.	118	13	-	13	-	-	-	-
Noise Nuisances.	12	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	587	12	-	12	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces.	69	5	-	5	-	-	-	-
Offices & Shops.	489	188	188	439	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3884	997	575	658	354	2	1	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

General.

The abatement of nuisance was again achieved almost entirely by informal action, and it was found necessary to serve only two Statutory Notices during the year.

Inspections were carried out in connection with all Improvement Grant applications and necessary repairs were carried out before the grants were approved. These repairs have been included in the tables.

A total of 233 Improvement Grants were made during the year, of which 17 were Standard Grants and 216 Discretionary Grants.

Discretionary Grants made since the inception of the scheme now total 2304, while the total number of Standard Grants now given is 108 and the facilities provided by the 17 grants given during 1967 are detailed in Section D of the report.

No Improvement Areas were declared under the Housing Act 1964, as systematic area improvement is still being carried out by the National Coal Board in co-operation with the Council. No representations by tenants for house improvement have been made under the Act.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 were made during the year.

The table below summarises the notices served:-

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or Written Notices	Defects Remedied
Insufficient, choked or defective drainage. .	11	9
Defective W.C. basins	4	2
Defective W.C. cisterns & service pipes . . .	8	6
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply.	-	-
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply	5	4
Defective or missing ashbins.	2	2
Defective roofs	46	38
Damp walls.	146	116
Defective spouts.	34	27
Defective wallplaster	40	37
Defective ceilings.	121	118
Defective doors, windows and floors	88	57
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers	14	7
Defective chimney flues	42	41
Defective paving and yard surfaces.	3	4
Defective food store.	4	-
Offensive accumulations	2	2
Other defects	28	23

Water Supply.

The water supply to the area is provided by Tynemouth Corporation from Fontburn and Tosson to Hebron Reservoir, and by gravity main to Ashington, with an additional supply provided by the Coquet Water Board.

Only minor works were required during the year, such as de-scaling in the North Seaton Road to South View area, and pressures were improved by adjustments to pressure reducing valves, particularly in connection with the Hospital and its new extensions.

55 water samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and of these, 50 samples showed no coliform bacilli.

Of the 5 samples showing coliform bacilli, 3 were from Bothal Village early in the year. Repairs to the storage tanks resulted in subsequent samples being satisfactory.

The remaining 2 samples, taken from the town supply, appeared to be isolated results. After mains flushing, further samples proved satisfactory.

2 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst to ascertain the lead concentration and the results were as follows:-

	Lead (p.p.m.)	P.H. Value.
Sample No. 1.	0.04	7.4
Sample No. 2.	0.06	7.5

Both samples were taken from houses with the maximum amount of lead piping, and where the water could stand for at least 14 hours before sampling.

Sewerage.

The new sewerage system for Woodhorn Village was completed during the year, and plans were being formulated for a scheme to serve additional factories at Jubilee Estate.

Further examination of the main sewerage system is intended, with particular reference to the two main storm water overflows at North Seaton Crossing and North Seaton Hotel.

Though there is nothing further to report with regard to sewage disposal in the Lintonville area, the need for a sewerage system should not be forgotten.

While it is appreciated that, because of subsidence and adverse levels, such a system would be costly, and benefit relatively few people, it should be remembered that there are 80-90 persons employed in factories, offices and other workplaces, where the only facilities provided are chemical and pail closets, and it is difficult to enforce the modern standards expected today when no sewerage system is available.

Swimming Baths.

The swimming baths belong to the Ashington Miners' Welfare Institute, but are available to the general public as well as to Institute Members, and are open from April to September each year.

The water used is from the main water supply and is treated by continuous chlorination and filtration.

Swimming Baths cont.

Five bacteriological samples of the baths were taken during the year, and all samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific Department of the National Coal Board in Ashington and copies of the reports are made available to this Department.

Schools.

There are 12 Primary Schools in the District (6 junior and 6 infant) 6 Secondary Schools, a Grammar School, Technical College, Seniors Practical Instruction Centre, and a Training Centre for Handicapped Children.

The new Coulson Park Primary School, (first phase) was opened during the year.

Following outbreaks of dysentery, all school toilets were inspected, and a report was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health.

While the standard of cleanliness was found to be high, minor repairs to toilet seats, broken chains etc. appeared to be neglected, and the following general recommendations were made.

1. Toilet blocks should be built within the main school buildings and should have washing facilities adjacent to them.
2. Hot and cold water should be provided in each basin.
3. Chains should be lowered for the use of infants so that the toilets can be flushed everytime after use.
4. Urinals should be inside the main building and should be provided with an efficient automatic flushing system. It was suggested that priority should be given to the building of new toilet blocks, in those schools in which there are uncovered and unflushed urinals.

In the light of this report, the Council made strong representations to the County Education Committee on the condition of these toilets.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.

Routine inspection of such buildings was carried out during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Council continued to implement their policy of installing room heaters in Council houses, and during the year completed the Newbiggin Road Estate, which brought the total of houses equipped with Smokeless fuel appliances to 451.

The increasing number of these appliances is encouraging interest in the town, in modern methods of heating, and most of the tenants appear to be well satisfied with the standard of comfort and increased cleanliness provided.

The Council having agreed in principle to designate these areas as smoke control areas, in accordance with established procedure, the Minister of Housing and Local Government was informed of this decision, and given details of the areas involved.

The Ministry commented that they did not regard it as good practice to make isolated orders, without first deciding on a phased programme of systematic introduction of smoke control over the whole area.

Atmospheric Pollution cont.

It was pointed out that as all houses concerned were already equipped to operate without smoke, and were on the outskirts of the town, it seemed sensible that they be designated smoke control areas, thereby continuing the policy of gradual introduction of clean air. The Ministry would not comment further on the points raised, and would not say whether they would refuse to confirm the Orders if they were made without a phased programme being first agreed.

Consequently it was intended to submit a fresh report to the Health Committee early in the new year, asking them to approve a phased programme of systematic introduction of smoke control over the whole area.

In view of all that has been said about authorities who have not introduced domestic smoke control, and bearing in mind the particular difficulties encountered in this respect in mining areas, the distinct lack of encouragement or assistance from the Ministry was surprising and disappointing.

The Monthly reports on results from the Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Candles are appended for your consideration:-

Month	Rainfall in inches	Total Deposits Tons/Sq. Mile	Sq. Centimetres per day Millimetres of SO ₂ per 100	
			Hirst Park	Memorial Park
January	1.42	12.25	2.29	1.80
February	2.18	19.64	1.63	1.38
March	1.00	17.83	1.23	1.55
April	1.00	14.84	1.41	1.78
May	(Apparatus damaged)		0.84	1.22
June	(Apparatus damaged)		1.00	0.97
July	1.79	14.12	0.40	0.37
August	3.16	10.31	0.56	0.38
September	1.74	10.24	0.69	0.69
October	3.21	11.91	0.71	0.68
November	0.42	4.05	2.13	1.26
December	1.21	13.81	1.83	1.17

Rodent Control.

Complaints again were relatively few, and treatments were carried out promptly.

Regular surveys were carried out, checking sewers, allotments, open spaces and other areas likely to harbour rats, resulting in the elimination of most infestations at an early stage. No sewer infestations were found.

No infestation reached major proportions.

Rodent Control cont.

The following table summarised the work done:-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	10,977	25
Total number of properties inspected following notification	170	9
Number infested by (1) Rats	121	8
(2) Mice	24	1
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	472	25
Number infested by (1) Rats	10	9
(2) Mice	0	0

Disinfestation.

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

	Council Houses	Private Houses
Clover Mite	14	1
Beetles	16	35
Bugs	8	1
Earwigs	-	1
Spiders	-	1
Mosquitoes	-	1
Slugs	2	-
Flies	-	1
Caterpillars	3	-
Wasps	1	1

No charge is made for the treatment of Council houses, though private occupiers pay for the Disinfestor's time and for the insecticide used.

One complaint of mosquito bites was received and larvae found in a water trough were identified as *Theobaldia Annulata*, a vicious man-biter. The area was searched, and no further larvae were found. The water trough was disconnected and filled in.

Other likely areas were examined, and larvae found in pools and water butts in allotments proved to be *Culex Pipiens*, which is a relatively harmless variety.

Pet Animals Act.

One licence to sell Pet Animals was granted to a stall holder in the closed market.

Riding Establishments Act 1964.

There is one riding establishment in the area, and following the submission of the Veterinary Surgeon's report, the licence was renewed for a further twelve months.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Health Committee during the year considered the collection side of the service against the background of the "Working Party Report on Refuse Storage and Collection", and it was found that most of the recommendations were already being carried out, or had been discussed by the Committee.

The principal areas where there appeared to be scope for improvement were:-

- 1) Rationalization of collection frequency.
- 2) Introduction of a Municipal Bin Scheme.
- 3) Introduction of Paper Sack Collection.
- 4) An incentive bonus scheme based on Work Study.

The key factor from which to base decisions in other directions, seems to be the type of collection system to be adopted, and the paper sack system appears to hold the solution for most of the refuse collection problems.

The Committee have agreed in principle to carry out a trial paper sack scheme, though for economic reasons, this has not yet been found possible.

Two replacement vehicles came into service during the year, the last one being a 35 cu. yd. "Pakamatic". This vehicle has been used for trade refuse, where its powers of refuse compression can be used to the greatest advantage, as a result the "Trade Wagon" made only two trips per day to the tip, instead of 5 or 6, and was able to collect from all the small shops, many of which had previously to be dealt with by other vehicles.

The tip face is now some distance from the Ellington Road, and nuisances due to windblown paper and tip fires were not quite so evident, though of course they were still there. Rat infestations were few, due to keeping open tip faces to a minimum.

In August, the Committee accepted a quotation by Tollemache Composting Systems Limited, for the provision of a Refuse Pulverising Plant, subject to Planning Permission and Loan Sanction being received.

At the end of the year, planning permission had been obtained and Loan Sanction was awaited.

587 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with refuse collection and disposal.

Statistics and costs for the year 1966/1967 were as follows:-

Operational Statistics.

Total refuse collected.	10,255 tons
Percentage of refuse weighed.	7%
Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day.	21.34 cwts
No. of premises from which refuse is collected	9,512
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100%
Average haul, single journey to disposal point	2.3 miles
Trade Refuse - Weight	1,003 tons
Income	£670

COSTS.

	Collection	Disposal	Total
	£25,177	£6,647	£31,824
Gross cost/ton - Labour only	33/2d	11d	34/1d
Gross cost/ton - Transport only	16/9d	4/6d	21/3d
Nett cost (all expenditure) per ton	49/1d	13/0d	62/1d
Nett cost per 1,000 population	£955	£252	£1,207
Nett cost per 1,000 premises	£2,647	£698	£3,345

Refuse Disposal Vehicles and Staff.

<u>Vehicle Reg.</u>	<u>Make.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>First Registered.</u>
LJR 136	Shelvoke & Drewry	Fore & Aft Tipper	11. 5. 57.
PTY 988	" " "	" " "	1. 10. 59.
WTFY 163	" " "	" " "	7. 9. 62.
DNL 685C	" " "	" " "	4. 1. 65.
KNL 155E	" " "	" " "	6. 1. 67.
MJR 890F	" " "	Pakamatic	1. 8. 67.
FJR 607C	Austin	Mini Van	4. 6. 65.
-	Bristol Angledozer	(Purchased)	6. 6. 63.

The dozer was due to be replaced in 1963.

Staff consists of:-

1 Foreman, 5 Drivers, 1 Dozer Driver/Tipman, 1 Spare Driver/Lifter, 20 Binlifters (including one spare lifter).

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

There are 77 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	3	7	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	62	44	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. outworkers' premises)	12	18	-	-
TOTAL	77	69	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August 1st required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of cases in default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc.)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Artificial flowers	11	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

Although nine premises were registered during the year, there was a reduction of eight in the total number of registered premises. This was due to the seventeen premises which no longer came within the scope of the Act, either by closing down or ceasing to employ persons.

Of the 303 premises registered under the Act, 32 received one or more general inspections during the year.

457 visits and inspections under the Act were carried out for various purposes.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year.
Offices.	2	64	2
Retail shops . .	6	224	29
Wholesale shops & warehouses . .	-	6	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.	1	6	1
Fuel storage depots	-	3	-
Total	9	303	32

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE.

Class of Workplace.	Number of persons employed.
Offices	827
Retail shops.	1,216
Wholesale departments, warehouses	25
Catering establishments open to the public. . .	53
Canteens.	8
Fuel Storage Depots	19
Total	2,148
Total males	897
Total females	1,251

No applications for exemption in respect of temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

One exemption from the firstaid provision is in force in view of the Medical Centre which is available to the employees concerned.

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS.

Section	Number of contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	18
5 Overcrowding.	-
6 Temperature	5
7 Ventilation	1
8 Lighting.	5
9 Sanitary Conveniences	22
10 Washing Facilities.	82
11 Supply of Drinking Water.	-
12 Clothing Accommodation.	1
13 Sitting facilities.	-
14 Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15 Eating facilities	-

Section	Number of contraventions found
16 Floors, passages and stairs.	27
17 Fencing exposed parts of machinery .	4
18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery.	-
19 Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery.	-
23 Prohibition of heavy work.	-
24 First Aid - General Provisions . . .	9
50 Posting of Abstract.	14
Total	188

25 accidents were notified during the year. Details of these were submitted to the Ministry of Labour in the quarterly returns and in the case of accident No. 20 an informal investigation was carried out, resulting in a letter of advice being sent to the shopkeeper concerned.

Details of accidents notified are as follows:-

TYPE OF PREMISES	NATURE OF ACCIDENTS
1. Retail shop.	Strained back while lifting goods.
2. " "	Strained back while lifting carcase of meat.
3. " "	Pierced hand with knife while picking up meat.
4. Catering establishment open to the public.	Knocked leg against bench sprained ligaments.
5. Retail shop.	Stood on nail which pierced foot.
6. Office.	Tripped on partition and cracked ribs.
7. Retail shop.	Cut finger on nail while cleaning window.
8. " "	Strained back when lifting box.
9. " "	Knife slipped while boning meat and entered stomach.
10. Catering establishment open to the public.	Slipped and injured back.
11. Catering establishment open to the public.	While serving tripped on edge of carpet injuring leg.
12. Retail shop.	Dropped tin of fruit onto foot.
13. " "	Caught hand on blade of knife while boning meat.
14. " "	Sprained back while lifting goods.
15. " "	Caused hernia by twisting himself while underneath shop window disconnecting lighting.
16. Canteen.	Slipped causing injury to back and coccyx.
17. Catering establishment open to the public.	Fell over beer crate cutting leg.
18. Office.	Paper weight fell onto foot.
19. " "	Bruised toe on wooden floor block.
20. Retail shop.	Tripped fell onto wire display stand cutting face and bruising back.
21. " "	Boning bacon knife slipped and cut forearm.
22. Canteen.	Slipped causing injury to wrist.
23. Office.	Fell when chair slipped from under her causing bruised elbow.
24. Retail shop.	Sprained wrist while washing floor.
25. Office.	Strained groin when bending to go under a low hatch doorway.

Once again it was found that help and advice was readily available from Mr. J.M. Beattie, Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories, ensuring that any action taken was in conformity with action taken elsewhere.

This assistance was particularly appreciated in relation to accidents and the guarding of machinery.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1967.

Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	141
b) By any other Housing Authority	Nil
c) By Private Persons	45

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	143
3. Houses closed, not demolished	Nil
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

5. By informal action	34
6. By owners, following statutory notice	1
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation.	Nil
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Clearance Programme.

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year.	187
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A. Discretionary Grants

No. of separate
houses

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority	218
2. Applications rejected	2
3. Applications approved	216
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£267
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	2304

B. Standard Grants.

During the
Year

Total to
Date

1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:	17	108
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
(a) Bath or shower	-	12
(b) Wash hand basin	-	20
(c) Hot water supply	2	19
(d) Water closet	16	101
(e) Food store	7	49

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream.

Eight premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice cream though in only six of these was ice cream manufactured during the year.

They were all inspected and were found to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1959, and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

47 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

The analysis of results is as follows:-

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Soft Ice Cream	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	34	4	5	-

Milk Supply.

Three premises were registered as dairies and 57 persons as milk dealers. Since 1st January 1961, all milk licences have been issued by Northumberland County Council.

The County Health Department is also responsible for the taking of milk samples. 53 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and three samples failed to pass the tests.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type, together with an analysis of washing equipment fitted is as follows:-

Trade	Number of Premises	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash hand basins)	Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies (sinks etc.)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Confectionery	18	18	10	9
Grocers & General	89	89	89	86
Butchers	22	22	22	21
Greengrocery	12	12	12	11
Bakery	11	11	11	11
Ice Cream Parlours	9	9	9	9
Fish Wet	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish	13	13	13	12
Cafes	4	4	4	4
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Clubs	23	18	23	23
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
Canteens	10	10	10	10
Total	221	216	213	206

109 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice cream, and 31 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc. and of these 7 premises are registered for both purposes.

662 visits were made to food premises, and in addition food premises being inspected under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were at the same time, dealt with under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food Hygiene standards were found to be quite high, the contraventions found being generally of a minor nature.

Food Complaints.

Five food complaints were received and investigated during the year as follows:-

<u>Complaints.</u>	<u>Prosecuted.</u>	<u>Plea.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
1. Mouldy potato crisps.	Yes	Guilty	Given absolute discharge on payment of £2. 6s. Od. costs.
2. Biscuits infected with Ptinus Tectus.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5. 0s. Od. and costs.
3. Dirty Milk Bottle.	Yes	Guilty	Fined £5. 0s. Od. and costs.
4. Mouldy custard tart.	No		
5. Fly in cream sponge.	No		

In the last two cases, the Clerk did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify proceedings being taken, and the complaints were brought to the notice of the manufacturers and other persons concerned.

Food and Drugs.

Regular sampling of milk and other foods is carried out in the district by the Northumberland County Council.

Details of this work have been kindly provided by Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 238 milk samples and 71 samples of other foods were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

All these samples were found to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

Milk - three samples contained added water. The producer was prosecuted, convicted and fined.

Green food colour - contained a non permitted food colour, blue V.R.S. Inquiries revealed that the food colour had been in stock prior to this colour being removed from the permitted list. Remaining stocks were returned to the manufacturers.

Meat and Other Foods.

The four slaughterhouses continued to operate and licence renewals during the year were as follows:-

<u>Slaughterhouse</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Licence Expires</u>
Back Wansbeck Terrace.	A.I.C.S.	31st July, 1968.
Back Lintonville Terrace.	W.J. Burgess & Sons Limited.	31st July, 1968.
Wellhead Terrace.	J. Wheatley.	31st July, 1968.
Back 197 Alexandra Road.	T. Davidson.	31st July, 1968.

Hygiene standards remained generally good and though minor defects appeared from time to time, these were quickly remedied. All four slaughterhouses were inspected during the year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. 100% Meat Inspection has been maintained, and the statutory procedure laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, detailing methods of examination and stamping has been followed.

No charge is made for meat inspection.

Number of Animals slaughtered during the year.

	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Normal Kill	525	524	2	-	-	849	2680
Casualties	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Total	525	524	2	-	-	850	2682

Meat and Other Organs, Condemned, Surrendered and Destroyed for Tuberculosis.

Swine.

Heads. 9

For other defined diseases.

Bovine.

Heads and Tongues.	Bruising 1; Actinobacillosis 2.
Lungs.	Pentatomos 1; Emphysema 1; Carcinoma 1;
	Pleurisy 37; Pneumonia 5; Abscesses 10;
	Parasites 2; Contamination 14.
Livers	Cirrhosis (Whole) 23; (Part) 101;
	Perihepatitis 5; Hepatitis 1; Abscesses 26;
	Tumour 1; Contamination 2.
Hearts	Pericarditis 6; C. Bovis 2.
Skirts	C. Bovis 1.
Spleens.	Contamination 1.
Kidneys.	Nephritis 1.
Mesenteries.	Peritonitis 1.
Gut.	Peritonitis 1.
Tripe.	Peritonitis 1.

Swine.

Heads.	Abscesses 2.
Lungs.	Pneumonia 132; Pleurisy 12; Abscesses 1.
Livers	Parasites 35; Perihepatitis 2.
Hearts	Pericarditis 44.
Kidneys.	Nephritis 3.
Carcase.	Pleurisy (6 lbs.) Malignant tumour with
	emaciation (46 lbs.)

Sheep.

Lungs.	Pleurisy 4; Pneumonia 1; Parasites 1;
	Contamination 4.
Livers	Perihepatitis 1; Contamination 1;
	Parasites 31; Abscesses 5; Cirrhosis 5;
	Peritonitis 1.
Hearts	Pericarditis 1.
Plucks	Septic Pneumonia 1.
Heads.	Contamination 5.
Kidneys.	Nephritis 1.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle excl. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed and inspected	1049	2	-	2682	850
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	106	-	-	40	163
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticerci	10.1	-	-	1.49	19.3
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	9
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.06
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED.

	Tons.	Cwts.	lbs.
1. Meat at slaughterhouses.	1	0	29
2. Meat at retail shops.	-	-	110
3. Cooked meat and meat products.	-	-	31
4. Canned Meats.	-	2	59
5. Other canned foods.	-	5	4
6. Fish (fresh).	-	-	-
7. Fruit and vegetables (fresh).	-	-	-
8. Other foods.	-	-	73
Total	1	9	82

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character.

